
What are Delaware's other voter registration requirements?

To vote in Delaware, you must be

- A United States citizen
- A resident of Delaware (proof required)
- 18 years of age
- Mentally competent

When do I need to register to vote?

Registration is available year-round in Delaware. To be eligible to vote in an upcoming election, you must register at least 20 days prior to the election.

Where do I go to register?

Registration is available at many places in Delaware, including:

- Department of Elections (by phone, mail, or in person)
- Division of Motor Vehicles
- Department of Health and Social Services

Registration may also be available at other state service agencies. Contact your County Department of Elections office to find out which service agencies provide voter registration.

This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.

If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the State Commissioner of Elections Office of the Delaware Secretary of State:

State Commissioner of Elections Office
32 West Loockerman Square
Suite M-101
Dover, DE 19904
(302) 739-4277 (voice)
(302) 739-6794 (fax)
www.state.de.us/election

If the Delaware Secretary of State is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Voting Section, Rm. 7254 - NWB
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 307-2767 (voice)
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)
(202) 307-3961 (fax)
www.usdoj.gov/crt

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



Restoring Your Right to Vote



The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

Can I vote while I'm incarcerated in Delaware?

If you are a resident of Delaware, you may not vote while you are incarcerated as a result of a felony conviction. If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in Delaware, you may be able to vote by absentee ballot in your home state. You need to consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?

A person convicted of murder, manslaughter or any felony constituting a sexual offense or an offense against public administration involving bribery, improper influence or abuse of office, may not have their voting rights restored.

Any other person who is disqualified as a voter because of a conviction of a crime shall have such disqualification removed upon being pardoned or five years after expiration of sentence, whichever may occur first. Expiration of sentence means satisfactory completion of imprisonment, probation and parole and satisfaction of all financial obligations required by the sentence, including restitution.

How do I obtain a pardon?

There is no official application form, but you may prepare a petition by following the steps listed below:

1. Obtain a certified copy of your court docket by contacting the sentencing court.
2. Complete a Board of Pardons Cover Sheet which you can obtain from the Board of Pardons.
3. On a separate sheet of paper, state your reasons for applying and why you believe you should be considered for a pardon.
4. Write a short history of the case on the same page as number 3. Explain in detail what happened, who was involved, where the offense happened, etc.
5. Provide a statement of all pending proceedings. If any federal or state cases are pending, you must state the nature of those cases and the courts that are involved. If no cases are pending, write "have no proceedings pending." This statement should follow the history of the case, number 4.
6. You may also submit letters of character reference.

7. Once you have secured the date, time and place for your meeting, send notices to the judge who presided at your sentencing hearing; the Attorney General of Delaware, 820 N. French Street, Wilmington, DE 19801; the Chief of Police for the city or county where you were arrested; and to the Superintendent, Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police, P.O. Box 430, Dover, DE 19903.

The notices should include the tentative date, time, and place of the meeting, the offenses and date(s) of arrest, your date of birth, and the reasons why you are applying for a pardon.

Mail these notices via certified mail at least 30 days before the hearing date. Include one copy of each notice and the paid certified mail receipts with your petition.

8. Photocopy and submit an original and five copies of items 1-6 to the Secretary of State's Office, 401 Federal Street, Suite 3, Dover, DE, 19901.

What if my conviction was for a federal crime?

Delaware applies the same rules whether you were convicted of a federal or state crime.

What if I was convicted in another state?

The same rules apply for Delaware voters even if the conviction occurred in another state.

What happens if I move to another state?

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.